A Decade of Radiating Hope: Lessons Learned, Obstacles and Opportunities

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Radiating Hope
OhioHealth
Obstacles are Opportunities

Radiating Hope – A decade in global radiation oncology

• For adventurers, facing the challenge is joy...

Mt. Everest Basecamp

Mt. Kilimanjaro

Machu Picchu

Matt Goss (AHN) in Bolivia

Larry Daugherty, MD (AK)

Brandon Fisher, DO (UT)
Global Health is an opportunity to make an impact...

Most frequent cancer vary with country, the most common:

**Breast**, **Prostate**, **Cervix**, and **Lung**...

Amenable to treatment with Radiation Therapy

FIGURE 2. A timeline outlining many of Radiating Hope’s projects over the past 10 years.
RadiatingHope, est. 2009

• Operating in several spheres,
  • Initiated with a focus on equipment donation, education, and training...

• Evolved into a successful advocacy group and organizer of international Oncology Symposia

• Projects in Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Chile, Ukraine, Nepal, Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya, Madagascar...
Lessons Learned

• Equipment donation is only the first step!

• Each step is critical in successful transfer...
  • Poor Riggers, Craters, Freighters, or Shippers can easily ruin the equipment
Lessons Learned

• Just because it is a “need”, doesn’t mean the infrastructure or resources are available to deploy

• Site visits are important; however, you don’t know, what you don’t know ...
Lessons Learned

• Lack of equipment presents as a *visible* opportunity, but it is only a symptom and must be understood...

• Follow-up is important, *developing relationships* is key and *always* takes time...

• Investment, creates value.
Lessons Learned

• “Relationship is the driver of change.”

• Think of who made you who you are. It was probably a parent, a teacher, or a mentor.

• It wasn’t some organization that was seeking a specific and measurable outcome that can be reduced to metrics. It wasn’t a person looking to create a system of change that could scale.

• It was just a person doing something intrinsically good – making you feel known, cared for, trusted, unconditionally loved – without presuming to know how that relationship would alter the trajectory of your life.” [or theirs]

  David Brooks, The Second Mountain
Lessons Learned

• Level of development, social, *political* conditions are critical to success

• Each project is unique and has its own associated learning curve
  • Importing?!

CT Scanner arriving at hospital in Bolivia

Roger Quiroga, mi primo
Lessons Learned

• Return on investment is optimized when aid is provided to those with skin in the game; partnerships with private centers can be extremely productive.

• Training is an essential element...
Obstacles

• Without trained staff, equipment can not help...

Opportunities

• Challenges in Global Health are multifaceted, they will be solved by a combination of individual initiative and cooperative effort.

• With manufacturers, and through coordination between organizations...

Adam Shulman, leading Brachytherapy Curriculum
Opportunities

• Ubuntu, “I am because we are,” has been advanced as a collaborative model for sustainable improvements in global health.

• Helping to facilitate connections within regions and nations, and between organizations and individuals, is an opportunity for those engaged and interested in engaging in Global Health.
How can I get involved?

Visiting a country,

**REACH OUT – CONNECT – COLLABORATE**

Try joining the Rotary…